



Winchester Special Education Advisory Council Calendar 2009-2010

September 21, 2009: 1st Business Meeting and Welcome from Linda Stapp, Director of Pupil Services

October 8, 2009: Out of District Parent's Social; (At the home of Cara Falconi 62 Water St; 6-8pm)
An opportunity for conversation. Come and talk with other special education parents who have children in out-of-district day schools and residential programs. This is wonderful opportunity to visit with old friends and meet new ones. Out-of-town parents are welcome.

October 15, 2009: Basic Rights Workshop

(7-9pm at Hardy Elementary School, 52 Lake Street, Arlington)

Whether you are a seasoned special education parent or just starting out, this workshop will provide you with a thorough introduction to your rights and responsibilities under the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (recently updated), Massachusetts's special education law, and the No Child Left Behind Act. Learn how to be an effective partner with your school, understand the special education eligibility process, and monitor the educational progress of your child. This workshop is co-sponsored by the towns of Winchester, Arlington and Medford.

October 27, 2009: Including Samuel with special guest -Dan Habib; (6:30-9pm)

Before his son Samuel was diagnosed with cerebral palsy, photojournalist Dan Habib Rarely thought about the inclusion of people with disabilities. Now he thinks about Inclusion every day. Shot and produced over four years, Habib's award-winning Documentary film, Including Samuel, honestly chronicles the Habib family's efforts to include Samuel in every facet of their lives. The film also features four other families with varied inclusion experiences, plus interviews with dozens of teachers, young people, parents and disability rights experts. Including Samuel is a highly personal, passionately photographed film that captures the cultural and systemic barriers to inclusion. Sponsored by Winchester's PAC, Multicultural Network and Winchester Hospital.

November 9, 2009: Parents and Teachers Working Together

How do you establish and maintain a good working relationship with your students' parents? Winchester school staff and parents share their strategies for increasing parent involvement, ensuring parental support and advocating for their child?

January 21, 2010: Elementary to Middle School Transition

This transition orientation is for parents of students who are on IEPs. The programs will specifically meet the informational needs of families who will be or may be transitioning to the middle school in September 2010. This is for parents, not students.

January 28, 2010: Middle to High School Transition

This transition orientation is for parents of students who are on IEPs. The programs will specifically meet the informational needs of families who will be or may be transitioning to the high school in September 2010. This is for parents, not students.

February 25, 2010: State of Special Education

This annual program returns with Superintendent of Schools, Bill McAlduffe and Director of Pupil Services, Linda Stapp, who will talk about what is going on with Special Education here in Winchester. Opportunity for Q & A will follow

March 17, 2010: Speech and Language

Winchester's Speech and Language Specialists will discuss Speech & Language Development/ An SI-Based Approach to Successful Communication.

April 6, 2010: Occupational Therapy

Sensory Integration and Sensory Processing Overview

May 12, 2010: Final Business Meeting / Elections

How will the PAC improve its services to parents and effectively fulfill its advisory role in the Winchester schools? Come share your thoughts. Elections of officers

May 2010- Children's Mental Health Week

TBA

June 11, 2010 – Family Picnic 5-7pm at Lynch Playground

A fun-filled, event for children with special needs and their families. Join us for pizza, games, music, crafts, face painting, and more. Please watch the list serve, and your mailbox for more information.

Unless otherwise noted, all meetings will be held at the The McCall Middle School Library from 6-8-pm For further information or weather cancellations, please contact Cara Falconi (781-729-3834) and check our website! Meetings are FREE, open to the public, and disability accessible.

www.winchesterspedpac.org